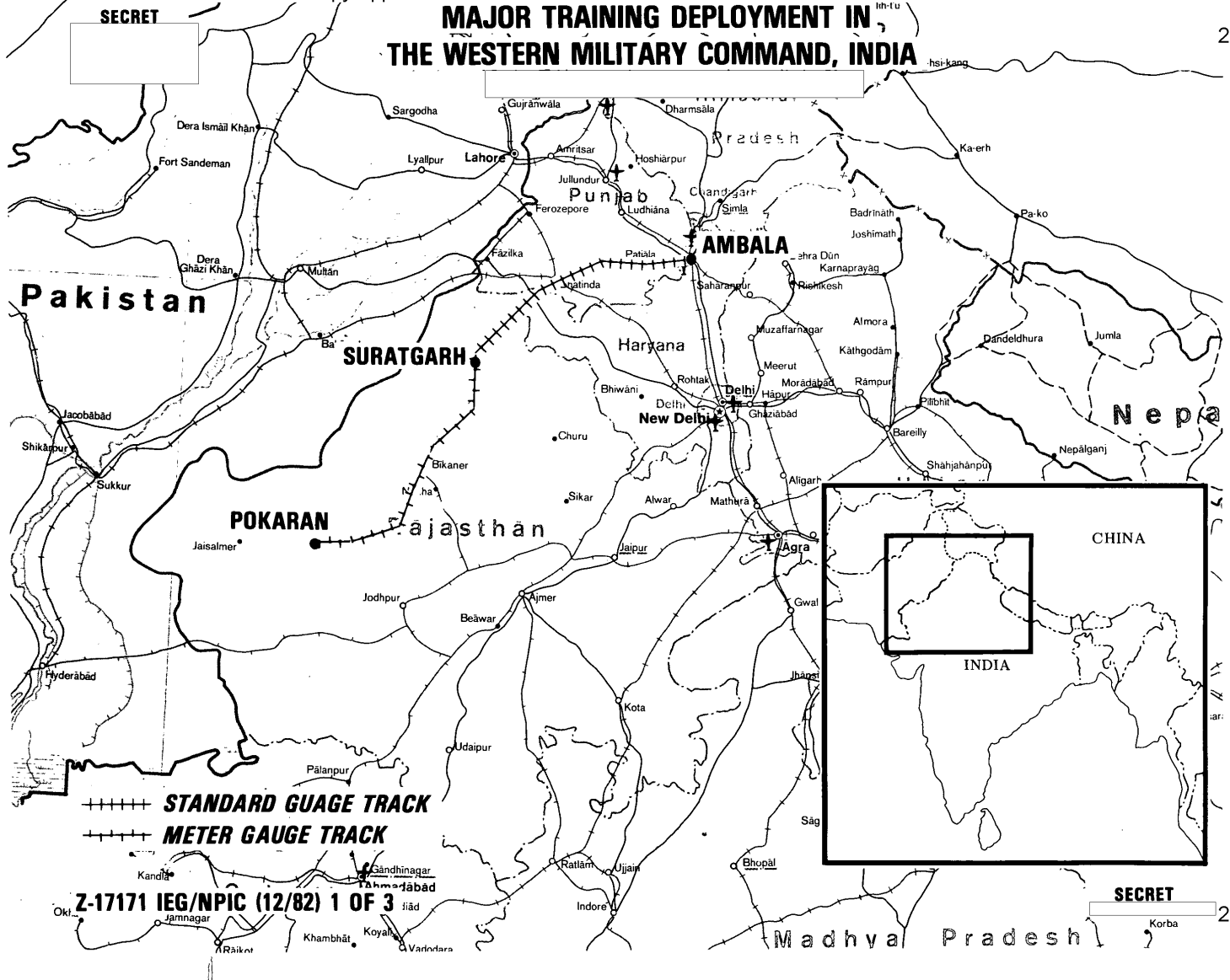


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MAJOR TRAINING DEPLOYMENT IN THE WESTERN MILITARY COMMAND, INDIA

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14 DECEMBER 1982

MAJOR TRAINING DEPLOYMENT IN THE WESTERN MILITARY COMMAND
INDIA

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1. (SWN) SIGNIFICANCE: MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE 2ND CORPS UNITS AT AMBALA ARMY BARRACKS [REDACTED] DEPARTED GARRISON [REDACTED] TO PARTICIPATE IN PROBABLE CORPS-LEVEL TRAINING EXERCISES IN THE THAR DESERT.

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2. (SECRET/[REDACTED]) REMARKS: MAJOR UNITS INVOLVED IN THE DEPLOYMENT INCLUDED ELEMENTS OF THE T-54/55 MEDIUM TANK-EQUIPPED 1ST ARMORED DIVISION AND 14TH INDEPENDENT ARMORED BRIGADE, AND THE SA-6 SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE-EQUIPPED AIR DEFENSE GROUP (SELF-PROPELLED). THE UNITS WERE PROBABLY SHIPPED BY RAIL THROUGH SURATGARH TO TRAINING AREAS NEAR POKARAN IN THE THAR DESERT (GRAPHIC 1). INITIAL INDICATIONS OF THE DEPLOYMENT WERE OBSERVED [REDACTED] WHEN ELEMENTS OF AN ARMORED REGIMENT WERE IDENTIFIED ON FLAT CARS AT THE RAIL SPUR SERVING AMBALA ARMY BARRACKS. ALTHOUGH NO ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT DEPLOYMENT ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED UNTIL 3 DECEMBER, ELEMENTS OF AN ARMORED REGIMENT, POSSIBLY THE SAME UNIT SEEN [REDACTED] REMAINED IN THE RAIL YARD ON [REDACTED] OTHER UNITS BEGAN FORMING INTO CONVOYS [REDACTED] CONVOYS WERE OBSERVED IN MOST UNIT AREAS AND SOME UNITS HAD DEPARTED THEIR VEHICLE PARKS. MAJOR ELEMENTS OF AN ARMORED REGIMENT WERE ALSO BEING LOADED ONTO TRAINS AT THE RAIL SPUR [REDACTED] THREE TRAINS, ONE LOADED WITH 24 TANKS, ONE WAITING TO LOAD ADDITIONAL TANKS PARKED NEARBY, AND ONE LOADED WITH SUPPLIES, WERE AT THE RAIL SPUR (GRAPHIC 2). BY [REDACTED] MOST OF THE 2ND CORPS UNITS HAD VACATED THE GARRISON.

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(SWN) ELEMENTS OF AN ARMORED REGIMENT (26 T-54/55 TANKS AND ONE ARMORED RECOVERY VEHICLE), PROBABLY PART OF THIS DEPLOYMENT, WERE OBSERVED IN-TRANSIT AT SURATGARH RR STA YD A SHOP [REDACTED] (GRAPHIC 3). THE TANKS WERE BEING TRANSLOADED FROM A TRAIN ON THE STANDARD GAUGE TRACK, WHICH RUNS SOUTHWEST FROM AMBALA TO SURATGARH,

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TO A TRAIN ON THE METER GAUGE TRACK, WHICH CONTINUES
SOUTHWEST TO THE TRAINING AREAS NEAR POKARAN.

(SWN) THE SIZE OF THE UNITS INVOLVED AND THE SPEED WITH
WHICH THEY VACATED GARRISON MADE THIS A HIGHLY UNUSUAL
DEPLOYMENT. EXERCISES OF DIVISION, MUCH LESS CORPS SIZE
ARE NOT COMMON IN INDIA DUE TO THE EXPENSE INVOLVED AND THE
DISRUPTION TO THE TRANSPORTION SYSTEM. IN ADDITION,
PREPARATIONS FOR TRAINING DEPLOYMENTS ARE NORMALLY OBSERVED
FOR SEVERAL WEEKS PRIOR TO THE UNITS DEPARTURE FROM
GARRISON.

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3. (S) _____ COORDINATES 30-21-13N 076-50-00E
(GRAPHIC 2)

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- _____ COORDINATES 29-19-20N 073-54-30E
(GRAPHIC 3)

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4. (S/NF/WNINTEL) DIA GROUND ORDER OF BATTLE - INDIA (U),
DDB-1100-IN-82, MAR 82, (S) _____

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